Message Text

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DRAFTED BY L/EB:K.S.GUDGEON:MRG APPROVED BY ARA/MEX:D.E.SIMCOX X-29894 ICC:M.FALK L/ARA:F.ARMSTRONG ARA/MEX:P.E.STORING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, MX

SUBJECT: ABANDONMENT OF SAN DIEGO AND ARIZONA EASTERN RAILWAY (SDAE)

- 1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION OF SCHEDULING OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE FOR SUBJECT DOCKET (NO. AB 16), MARCH 16, AT 9:30 AM, ROOM 310, 1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, WITH HEARINGS TO FOLLOW OVER A NUMBER OF DAYS BEGINNING APRIL 4, ALSO IN SAN DIEGO.
- 2. SDAE IS SOLE CONNECTION FOR 72 KM SONORA BAJA CALIFORNIA RR (SBC), WHICH WE ARE INFORMED IS A SUBSIDIARY OF NATIONAL RAILWAYS OF MEXICO. SBC OPERATES FROM U.S. BORDER AT TIJUANA TO BORDER POINT FURTHER EAST NEAR TECATE. ALL FREIGHT BRIDGE TRAFFIC TO OTHER MEXICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINTS, AS WELL AS EXPORT AND IMPORT MOVEMENTS, MUST MOVE VIA SDAE THROUGH SAN DIEGO. SDAE ALSO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO SBC MAINTENANCE.

3. SBC FUNCTIONARY CARLOS MALO (AUXILIAR EJECUTIVO), BASED IN MEXICALI, HAS WRITTEN ICC CHICAGO OFFICE TO EXPRESS CONCERN AT THE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT. ICC

WASHINGTON REPLIED REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION, BUT HAS NOT HEARD BACK. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SOURCE IN SDAE PARENT SOUTHERN PACIFIC TRANSPORTATION COMPANY THAT MALO AWARE OF LOCAL U.S. CONCERN OVER PROPOSED ABANDONMENT AND POSSIBILITIES SDAE MIGHT CONTINUE OPERATION UNDER DIFFERENT OWNERSHIP.

4. IN LIGHT OF SBC DEPENDENCE ON SDAE, AND MALO CORRESPONDENCE TO ICC, EMBASSY AND CONGEN SHOULD BE AWARE OF ICC PROCEEDINGS, AND MAY USE DISCRETION WHETHER TO IN TURN ADVISE APPROPRIATE GOM OR RR OFFICIALS. ICC HAS INFORMED US THAT IMPACTS IN MEXICO OF THE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IF TESTIMONY IS PRESENTED BY MEXICAN INTERESTS. SBC WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO SEEK U.S. COUNSEL TO ASSIST IT IF IT SEEKS TO PLACE ITS CONCERNS BEFORE ICC EXAMINERS. VANCE

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